

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A server, which is subordinate to a relay device having a port forwarding feature, comprising:

a port management ~~[[means]]~~ section, which requests the relay device to assign a predetermined port number for a representative server and which is assigned a port number by the relay device,

wherein the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section acquires a ~~[[the]]~~ wide area network address of the relay device and port mapping information ~~if in case~~ the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section is registered to the predetermined port number address and,

further wherein the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section provides the port mapping ~~address/port~~ information on other servers in response to an access from a wide area network.

2. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1, wherein when a request is issued to the relay device,

~~if in case~~ the predetermined port number is unregistered, the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section is assigned the predetermined port number,

~~if in case~~ the predetermined port number is registered, the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section is assigned another port number.

3. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1, wherein ~~in case~~ if the port management section ~~[[it]]~~ is assigned to the predetermined port number, said port management ~~[[means]]~~ section periodically requests the port mapping information.

4 and 5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1, wherein if ~~in case~~ the server is assigned the ~~[[a]]~~ predetermined port number, the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section requests use registration information from the relay device and fetches the port mapping information from the use registration information.

7. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1, wherein if ~~in case~~ the server is assigned the ~~[[a]]~~ predetermined port number, the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section notifies the other server of the ~~[[its]]~~ port number assigned.

8. (Currently Amended) The server according to any one of claims 1-3, 6, and 7 ~~4 through 7~~, further comprising: a web page generating section ~~[[and]]~~ generating a web page where address information on other servers is attached in a linkable fashion.

9. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 1 through 8~~, wherein the port management ~~[[means]]~~ section adds host names for identification to other servers and posts the host names in the address information.

10. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through~~ 9, wherein when the server has detected that a server registered to the ~~the~~ [[a]] predetermined port number withdrew from a ~~the~~ [[the]] LAN, another server transmits an identification message to register the other server itself to the predetermined port number.

11. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 10, wherein other servers transmit identification messages after a random time has elapsed and, ~~if in case~~ two or more servers issue an identification message within a certain time after that, these servers transmit identification messages respectively after a random time has elapsed until a sole server which identifies the sole server itself uses the predetermined port number.

12. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 10 ~~any one of claims 1 through~~ 9, wherein after detection of withdrawal, the ~~another~~ server is registered to the predetermined port number based on [[the]] mapped port numbers.

13. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 10, wherein after detection of withdrawal, other servers respectively transmit identification messages after a time calculated from a ~~each~~ [[each]] server-specific value has elapsed and a sole server determined based on a predetermined determination rule becomes a representative server and is registered to said predetermined port number.

14. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim ~~any one of claims 10 through 13~~, wherein a server registered to a predetermined port number communicates, as a single unit, a withdrawal notice message to ~~[[the]]~~ servers in the LAN to notify that the server has withdrawn from the LAN.

15. (Currently Amended) The server according to any one of claims 10 through 13, wherein a server in the LAN detects that there is no inquiry about the port mapping information from a ~~[[the]]~~ server registered to a predetermined port number to detect that the server has withdrawn from the LAN.

16. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim ~~any one of claims 10 through 13~~, wherein all servers in the LAN make inquiries to a ~~[[the]]~~ server registered to a predetermined port number about a ~~[[its]]~~ presence of the server and upon receiving no response, detect ~~detects~~ the server has withdrawn from the LAN.

17. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 16~~, further comprising:

a camera,

an image data generator, which processes a picture signal of a picture shot with the camera and encodes ~~to encode~~ the signal, and

a web server section, which transmits ~~[[the]]~~ image data to a wide area network, wherein the server transmits a photographed image as an image server.

18. (Currently Amended) A server connected to a second network of a relay device which transfers packets from a a ~~[[its]]~~ first network to the ~~[[its]]~~ second network in accordance with a destination port number,

wherein the server requests the relay device to assign a predetermined port number out of ~~[[the]]~~ port numbers used for data transfer, and determining that the predetermined port number has been assigned, acquires ~~[[the]]~~ port assignment information on other servers from the relay device to generate display information including the port assignment information and transmit the display information in response to an access from the first network via the relay device.

19. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 through~~ 18, wherein the server requests assignment of the ~~[[a]]~~ predetermined port number used for the data transfer and address information on the first network of the relay device from the relay device.

20. (Original) The server according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the server periodically acquires the port assignment information.